IN THE CLAIMS:

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for providing information for a user interface having included therein a plurality of regions, the method comprising:

defining a plurality of slice locations for a guide region of the user interface, wherein each slice location corresponds to a respective area and location in the guide region;

associating a plurality of guide slices for each of at least one slice location in the guide region;

encoding one or more guide slices for each slice location in the guide region; and

transmitting one or more encoded guide slices for each slice location in the guide region.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

associating one guide slice for each slice location in the guide region not associated with a plurality of guide slices.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of sets of guide slices are transmitted for the plurality of slice locations in the guide region.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of sets of guide slices are transmitted via time division multiplexing.

5. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein one set of guide slices is transmitted for each group of pictures (GOP).

6 (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

time-stamping each set of guide slices for presentation at a designated time.

7. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein at least one set of guide slices comprises a partial set of guide slices in the guide region.

8. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of sets of guide slices are transmitted with a common packet identifier (PID).

9. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of sets of guide slices is transmitted with a respective packet identifier (PID).

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting includes continually transmitting a first set of guide slices for the plurality of slice locations in the guide region.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the transmitting further includes
transmitting one or more additional guide slices at a designated time.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the one or more additional guide slices are transmitted in response to a received request for the additional guide slices.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the guide slices transmitted for the guide region are intra-coded.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each transmitted guide slice includes a header indicative of a start location and a stop location for the guide slice.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each transmitted guide slice includes a guide listing for a particular channel in the user interface.

16. (original) A method for providing information for a user interface, comprising:

defining a plurality of slice locations for at least a portion of the user interface, wherein each slice location corresponds to a respective area and location in the user interface;

associating a plurality of slices for each of at least one slice location in the user interface;

encoding one or more slices for each slice location in the user interface; and

transmitting one or more encoded slices for each slice location in the user interface.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the one or more encoded slices for each slice location includes guide data for an interactive program guide.

18. (original) A method for providing a user interface having included therein a plurality of regions, the method comprising:

receiving a bitstream comprising packets for a plurality of slices for a guide region of the user interface, wherein each slice is designated for presentation at a particular slice location in the guide region, and wherein multiple slices are transmitted for each of at least one slice location in the guide region;

retrieving from the bitstream packets for a set of slices for the guide region; and

decoding the retrieved packets to form the guide region of the user interface.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein a plurality of sets of slices are received for the guide region, the method further comprising:

decoding packets for the plurality of sets of slices; and

presenting the plurality of sets of slices in the guide region at times designated by the a header associated with the slices.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the plurality of sets of slices are presented in the user interface via time division multiplexing.

21. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a user selection for a particular slice location of the guide region;

retrieving from the bitstream packets for an additional slice associated with the selected slice location; and

decoding the retrieved packets for the additional slice to form an updated user interface having included therein the additional slice.

22. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein each slice includes a header indicative of a start location and a stop location for the slice.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the header for each slice is a slice start code defined by MPEG-2 standard.

24. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein each decoded slice is presented at a location identified by the header.

25. (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

modifying a particular property of each of one or more decoded slices for presentation at locations on the user interface different from locations identified by headers of the decoded slices.

26. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

recombining the slices for the guide region with slices for at least one additional region in the user interface.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the recombining is performed in accordance with a splicing syntax defined by MPEG-2 standard.

28. (original) A method for providing a user interface, comprising:

receiving a bitstream comprising packets for a plurality of slices for the user interface, wherein each slice is designated for presentation at a particular slice location in the user interface, and wherein multiple slices are transmitted for each of at least one slice location in the user interface;

retrieving from the bitstream packets for a set of slices for the user interface; and

decoding the retrieved packets to form the user interface having included therein the set of slices.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the one or more encoded slices for each slice location includes guide data for an interactive program guide.

30. (original) A terminal configured to provide a user interface having includes therein a plurality of regions, comprising:

a demodulator operative to receive and demodulate a modulated signal to provide a transport stream;

a transport de-multiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to receive and process the transport stream to provide a sequence of packets for a plurality of slices for a guide region of the user interface, wherein each slice is designated for presentation at a particular slice location in the guide region, and wherein multiple slices are transmitted for each of at least one slice location in the guide region; and

at least one video decoder coupled to the transport de-multiplexer and operative to receive and decode the sequence of packets to form the guide region of the user interface.

31. (original) The terminal of claim 30, further comprising:

a controller operative to receive a user selection for a particular slice location in the guide region and to direct the transport de-multiplexer to retrieve, from the transport stream, packets for an additional slice associated with the selected slice location, and

wherein the at least one video decoder is further operative to decode the retrieved packets for the additional slice to form an updated user interface having included therein the additional slice.